



The Conservation Strip

John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

2017 Annual Awards Luncheon

Winter 2018

The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual Awards Luncheon on December 19, at Stoneridge Events Center in Warrenton. Local citizens were recognized for their outstanding commitment to conservation throughout Fauquier County. This year's distinguished guests included Delegate Michael Webert (VA-18) and Fauquier County Supervisor Holder Trumbo (Scott District).

The luncheon began with a presentation by Ryan Lasher, a Liberty High School senior who has been an intern with JMSWCD for this semester. Ryan spoke about his project to create a web-based water monitoring application to inform the public of the water quality in their local streams. The full application is due to be launched in the coming months.

The awards ceremony began by recognizing Director Mary Lou Trimble (who ended her term as a director at the beginning of January) for her nearly 30 years of service to the District. For more information about Mary Lou Trimble and her time with the District, see page 2. After the staff and board recognition, the following awards were presented to members of the community:

The **Conservation Farm Award** was given to **Gone Away Farm** owned by Mrs. Susan Sloane. Through two phases of practices since 2013, Gone Away Farm has worked to protect 2,950 linear feet of stream

bank, created two acres of buffer and improved grazing on 47 acres of land. Their second project involved the development of two springs that supply water to a gravity trough as well as the construction of a stream crossing to allow passage between two fields. They partnered with JMSWCD, Goose Creek Association, and Highland School to plant one of their buffers to native hardwood trees and shrubs.

The **Clean Water Farm Award** was presented to **Daron Culbertson**. Daron co-owns and manages Willingham Farms, a purebred Hereford and commercial cattle operation. From 2014 – 2017, Culbertson completed a total of 5 stream exclusion practices at his family's two farms, for a total of 3.5 miles in stream bank protection and the creation of 26 acres of riparian buffer. A portion of the new stream buffer has been planted back with native trees and shrubs. Soil and Water Conservation Districts select local Clean Water Farm Award winners and those winners are then submitted to the Commonwealth for consideration for the Grand Basin Award. Daron was also the Grand Winner for the Rappahannock River Basin, one of only 10 basin awards given across the state.

The **Conservation Contractor Award** was presented to **Jason Payne, Crest Hill Landscaping LLC**. Over the last several years Crest Hill Landscaping has demonstrated

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Mission Statement

Our Mission is to provide leadership, technical assistance, information, and education to the citizens of Fauquier County in proper soil stewardship, agricultural conservation methods, and water quality protection so as to ensure the wise use of the county's natural resources.



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Mary Lou Trimble Steps Down

Mary Lou Trimble officially stepped down from her position as a Director of the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District on January 1, 2018. She has been involved with the District for nearly 30 years.

Mary Lou Trimble was raised on a beef and grain farm in Augusta County. She received an Associate Degree in Arts from Peace College in Raleigh, North Carolina, then received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Madison College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and then began her teaching career in Fauquier County.

In 1988, the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District presented her with the Conservation Teacher of the Year Award, and in 1989, she received an Outstanding Teacher Award from the Fauquier County Excellence in Education Committee. In 1991, Mary Lou retired as a Gateway and Pathways instructor for Kindergarten through sixth grades. Mary Lou has always been a strong advocate for educating the community's youth on the importance of the conservation of natural resources and, in cooperation with the Piedmont Environmental Council, she created the Fauquier County Natural History Camp to introduce children to the rural natural environment.

Starting on January 1, 1989 and going until December 31, 2001, Mary Lou served as an Associate Director for John

Marshall SWCD, contributing numerous hours assisting with natural resource education events and field days. On January 1, 2002, she became the first female director for the John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District and has served as a Director ever since.

While at John Marshall SWCD, she served on the Education, Personnel, Finance, and Publicity Committees, and has served as Chairperson of both the Finance and Personnel Committees. She also served as Chairperson of the District Board from 2004 through 2012. Under Mary Lou's leadership and guidance the District protected over 793,000 linear feet (150 miles) of stream bank, created over 1,350 acres (2.1 square miles) of riparian buffer, and has issued over \$4,135,000 to local farmers for measures to protect and conserve natural resources.

At the District's annual awards luncheon on December 19, Mary Lou was recognized by Jennifer Hoysa (retired District Manager) and Gray Coyner (District Chairman). She was also recognized by the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors with a proclamation of her service to advance the mission of the District and to benefit the citizens and families of Fauquier County.

Howard Grove has been appointed by the Virginia Soil and Water Board to serve as Mary Lou's replacement.



Mary Lou has been involved with the District for nearly 30 years.



Mary Lou presents an award at a District award ceremony.



Mary Lou Speaks at the John Marshall SWCD Luncheon in December.

2015 Annual Awards Luncheon Continued

(Continued from page 1)

exceptional professionalism and effort in their assistance with the installation of Agricultural Best Management Practices. Jason and his crew have installed over 14,000 feet of stream protection fence for multiple landowners in many challenging landscapes with high praise from all program participants. Jason has approached this work with an open mind and always looks to learn from each project. The quality of work is exceptional and his willingness to produce a high level of finish reflects positively on the district.

The **Conservation Partner Award** was given to **Piedmont Environmental Council**. For the past several years, Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) staff and volunteers have consistently assisted in the promotion of the District's conservation goals, particularly the installation of stream exclusion practices, the restoration of the Thumb Run watershed, and most recently, the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program that addresses urban stormwater issues. With assistance from the Volgenau Foundation, PEC hosted a series of successful community meetings in Thumb Run watershed that educated residents on the

results of scientific studies and the availability of funds for habitat and water quality improvement projects. They have also been instrumental in helping host the annual "From the Rappahannock, For the Rappahannock" celebration at Marriot Ranch.

The **Edwin F. Gulick Conservation Educator Award** was given to **Jim Hankins**. Jim is the Executive Director of the Fauquier Education Farm. Jim works to educate local citizens about agriculture and leads annual multi-week classes called the "Beginning Farmer Program" and "Getting Your Hands Dirty." He also leads 10 evening workshops per year on topics ranging from the world of watermelons, to how to use cover crops, to organic pest control. Jim has been wonderful in allowing the District to host events at the farm including the 2015 Area II Envirothon competition for high school students. He has also hosted the District's 3rd grade farm field days and taught a station on vegetable crops which has reached nearly 650 students over the past two years.

Additional pictures of the Awards Luncheon are available on the John Marshall SWCD Facebook page.



The John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District recognized (from left to right) Daron Culbertson, Jason Payne, PEC, Jim Hankins, and Susan Sloane.

John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District

98 Alexandria Pike, Suite 31
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 347-3120 x3
johnmarshall.swcd@vaswcd.org

www.johnmarshallswcd.com

Hours: 7:30 am-4:30 pm
Monday-Friday

District Directors

A. Gray Coyner, Chairman
John Schied, Vice Chairman
Deirdre Clark, Sec./Treas.
Tim Mize
Howard Grove

Associate Directors

John Bauserman
Patricia Johnson
Michael Webert

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JMSWCD Staff

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Conservation Specialist
Kris Jarvis
Conservation Education Specialist
Michael Trop
Office Administrator
Wendy Merwin

NRCS Staff

District Conservationist
Roger Flint
Soil Conservationist
Casey Dietzen Iames

Next EQIP Deadline Approaching

The next deadline to apply for the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is January 19, 2018.

This program can help improve soil and water quality on farms by excluding livestock from streams, installing grazing and animal waste handling systems, and planting cover crops and reducing tillage. The following areas have been designated as EQIP Resource Concerns for 2018:

Livestock Operations: Assistance with animal waste storage and handling facilities for livestock (including dairy, swine, and poultry) and efficient application of organic nutrients.

Grazing Lands: Assistance for planning and implementing rotational grazing systems, excluding livestock from streams, establishing riparian buffers, and apply-

ing nutrients more efficiently.

Cropland: You can get assistance for improving soil quality with crop rotations, cover crops, and high residue crop production, using no-till with erosion control practices.

Organic Farming Initiative: Assistance is available for current certified organic producers and those transitioning to organic farming.

EQIP contracts run from one to 10 years and are limited to \$450,000 per individual. New, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers can receive financial assistance for installing practices.

To apply for EQIP, your personal information must be updated with the Farm Service Agency.

Calendar of Events

January 1		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed
January 2		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed
January 10	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting JMSWCD Office
January 12		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed
January 15		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed
February 14	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting JMSWCD Office
February 19		John Marshall SWCD Office Closed
March 14	4:00 PM	John Marshall SWCD Board Meeting JMSWCD Office

Staying Connected: The John Marshall SWCD makes it easy to stay connected through social media. If you're on Facebook, "Like" our page to get updates on what's happening at the District.



The Conservation Strip is a quarterly publication of the John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District. To be added to our email list, please send an email to Wendy Merwin at: wendy.merwin@fauquiercounty.gov.

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All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status.